

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES

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DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

09/869550

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

PCT/DE99/04129

December 31, 1999

December 31, 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

Online Ordering System, in Particular for Food Outlets, and Method for Operating an Online Ordering System of this Type

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Jan Trebesius

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). **UN EXECUTED**
10. ☒ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

General Authorization to Charge Fees
2 Sheets of drawings

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR) <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">097/869550</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE99/04129		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER (H) 01ICP0235USP	
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24. The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 80%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: right;"> \$1000.00 \$860.00 \$710.00 \$690.00 \$100.00 </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$860.00 </div>				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	14 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).				<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$860.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. (See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$430.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$430.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 +				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$430.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$430.00	
				Amount to be:	\$
				refunded	\$
				charged	\$

a. ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0665 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☒ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

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SIGNATURE

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NAME

20,430

REGISTRATION NUMBER

June 28, 2001

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: International Application PCT/DE99/04129
Filed December 31, 1999
Title Online Ordering System, in Particular for Food Outlets, and Method for
Operating an Online Ordering System of this Type
Applicant Trebesius
Attorney Docket (H) 01ICP0235USP

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:

at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,

in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which in each case,

connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the first computer system.
2. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the output device and/or display device comprises a fax machine.
3. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an interactive program runs on the first computer system.

4. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least a second computer system, which is connected to the Internet and can communicate with the first computer system.
5. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second computer system comprises a fax server.
6. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the program comprises at least one prompted user program and one unprompted user program.
7. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system, in particular of operating the online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:
display of the start page,
preferably user input of a geographical specification,
response of the system to the use input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified geographical area,
user input in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected,
response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the items of food offered by the food outlet selected,
user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected o a
table reservation is made,
response of the system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet selected.

8. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7,
characterized in that the transmission of the order takes place on a fax machine at
the selected food outlet.
9. (Amended) The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7,
characterized in that it also comprises the following steps:
displaying various categories of food,
user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and
response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food
outlets and display of the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.
10. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in
claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:
transmitting a message to the orderer on the success/failure of passing on the
order to the food outlet.
11. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in
claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps:
display of price categories of the food outlets,
user input of a specific category of the price categories displayed, and
response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food
outlets and display of the food outlets which ass into the price categories selected.
12. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in
claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:
user input of a delivery time and storage of the same by the system.

13. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in

claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:

user input of a delivery address and storage of the same by the system.

Cancel claim 14 and insert the following new claim 15:

15. Use of an online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:

at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,

in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which in each case, connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the first computer system,

for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 7.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) An online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:
 - [-] at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,
 - [-] in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which in each case,
 - [-] connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the first computer system.
2. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the output device and/or display device comprises a fax machine.
3. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that an interactive program runs on the first computer system.
4. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least a second computer system, which is connected to the Internet and can communicate with the first computer system.
5. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the second computer system comprises a fax server.
6. (Amended) The online ordering system as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the program comprises at least one prompted user program and one unprompted user program.

7. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system, in particular of

operating the online ordering system as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1,

comprising the following steps:

[-] display of the start page,

[-] preferably user input of a geographical specification,

[-] response of the system to the use input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified geographical area,

[-] user input in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected,

[-] response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the items of food offered by the food outlet selected,

[-] user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected o a table reservation is made,

[-] response of the system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet selected.

8. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the transmission of the order takes place on a fax machine at the selected food outlet.

9. (Amended) The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7

[or 8], characterized in that it also comprises the following steps:

[-] displaying various categories of food,

[-] user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and

[-] response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

10. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in

[one of the preceding method claims] claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:

[-] transmitting a message to the orderer on the success/failure of passing on the order to the food outlet.

11. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in

[one of the preceding method claims] claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps:

[-] display of price categories of the food outlets,

[-] user input of a specific category of the price categories displayed, and

[-] response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which ass into the price categories selected.

12. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in

[one of the preceding method claims] claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:

[-] user input of a delivery time and storage of the same by the system.

13. (Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in

[one of the preceding method claims] claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:

[-] user input of a delivery address and storage of the same by the system.

Cancel claim 14 and insert the following new claim 15:

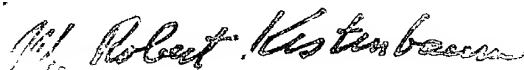
15. Use of an online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:
- at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,
- in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which in each case,
- connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the first computer system,
- for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 7.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment removes multiple dependencies in the claims.

Claim 7 reflects the changes made in the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report. Please calculate the Filing Fee according to this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro



(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
13. Juli 2000 (13.07.2000)

PCT

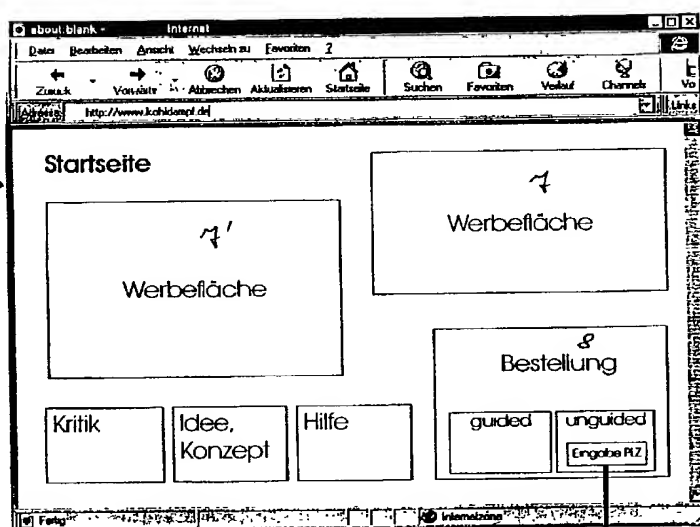
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- (74) Anwalt: **HERDEN, Andreas;** Blumbach, Kramer & Partner GbR, Alexandrastrasse 5, D-65187 Wiesbaden (DE).
- (81) Bestimmungsstaaten (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
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[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY FOR RESTAURANTS, AND METHOD FOR OPERATING AN ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM OF THIS TYPE

(54) Bezeichnung: ONLINE-BESTELLSYSTEM, INSBESONDERE FÜR GASTSTÄTTEN, SOWIE VERFAHREN ZUM BETRIEB EINES DERARTIGEN ONLINE-BESTELLSYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an online ordering system for restaurants located in any geographical area. The inventive system comprises at least one computer system which can be accessed under a domain via the internet. Data concerning the restaurants is filed in said computer system, and an interactive program runs thereon. The inventive online ordering system comprises a communications connection which can be established in an at least partially intermittent manner between the computer system and all registered restaurants, and comprises an output and/or display device located in the restaurants which is connected to the computer system.

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

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JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 8 JUN 2001

Jan Trebesius

Online ordering system, in particular for food outlets,
and method of operating an online ordering system of
this type

- 5 The invention relates to an online ordering system, in particular for food outlets, and to a method of operating a system of this type.

- 10 The invention is based on the object of providing an ordering system for food outlets and restaurants which can respond flexibly and location-independently to the needs of the respective user of the system. The invention solves this technical problem by the online ordering system comprising the features of claim 1 and
15 by the method of operating an online ordering system with the features of claim 7.

- The online ordering system for food outlets according to the invention, with it being possible for the food
20 outlets to lie within any desired geographical area, has a computer system which is accessible via the Internet under a domain and in which data on the food outlets are stored. These data concern in particular the geographical location, determined for example by
25 the assigned postal code of the respective food outlet, information specifying the geographical district in which a specific food outlet delivers items of food ordered, the respective menu of the various food outlets, including prices, and also for example time
30 periods during which the food outlet takes or processes orders.

- On the computer system mentioned, and hereafter also referred to as the domain server, there runs a program,
35 in particular an interactive program, which communicates for example with a user who has dialled up the corresponding domain.

The user is in this case connected by a computer system of its own, or at least by an (intelligent) terminal, to the domain server via the Internet.

5

According to the invention, the online ordering system also in each case comprises a communication connection between the domain computer system and all the food outlets covered by the system, which in each case connects an output device and/or display device in the food outlets to the computer system. A fax or telephone connection, but also a communication connection via which e-mails can be sent, come into consideration in particular for this.

15

With the system described above, a large number of target groups can be reached, for example private individuals, schoolchildren, students, freelance workers, craftsmen, employees of relatively small companies and also people at medium-sized companies which do not run a canteen of their own. This is also advantageous in particular since nowadays the target people mentioned often have an Internet connection.

25 The users can consequently use the system according to the invention to order items of food and/or drinks of any kind without regional or district-related restrictions under one or more prescribed addresses, for example a WWW domain, and, depending on the embodiment of the invention or according to the choice of the user, make a corresponding table reservation at the restaurant and/or have the ordered items of food/drinks delivered to a specified address for a prescribed time.

35

Irrespective of the location of the respective user, said user must always specify one or more prescribed addresses, the domain address(es) of the computer system, which covers for example food outlets

throughout the entire Federal Republic of Germany. The ordering system according to the invention adapts itself on the basis of user inputs completely to the needs of the respective user.

5

Once this domain has been dialled up, the user is displayed a start page by the online ordering system according to the invention. Depending on the chosen address of the computer system, this start page can be
10 designed appropriately for the target group or specifically for the target group.

This start page, like the other menu or display pages of the system, may have not only interactive fields but
15 also advertising areas, which may be time-dependent. An interactive field may in this case comprise for example an icon, which can be selected by the user, whereupon the system responds input-dependently, or else an alphanumeric input pad, which the user uses for
20 input. Once the start page is displayed, the user can start the ordering procedure, for example by pressing a button on the mouse on his computer system.

Depending on the embodiment of the system, one or more
25 types of ordering may be provided, for example a prompted type of ordering or an unprompted type of ordering. In the user-prompted type of ordering, before the respective inquiry, the user receives information from the ordering system giving him
30 suggestions for the inputs to be carried out.

In the unprompted type of ordering, the user can specify directly a first restriction of the food outlets coming into consideration by entering
35 geographical information, for example the postal code or the location. The online ordering system for food outlets in any desired geographical area responds to this user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and displays the food outlets coming into

- consideration to the user in a new field or on a new page, depending on the embodiment. In this respect, the system according to the invention is set up in such a way that the data stored in the system on the food outlets are filtered with the criterion entered by the user, here the geographical information specified, and the food outlets which satisfy the criterion entered are determined in this way.
- 10 During this determination, the system also takes into account whether the food outlets prepare or deliver food at all at the chosen or current time. The user selects one of the displayed food outlets by a renewed user input. The system responds to this user input,
- 15 again on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets, and displays the food offered by the food outlets selected. This is followed by a further user input, in such a way that at least one of the items of food and/or drinks displayed is selected. In a
- 20 following step, the system according to the invention transmits the order to the food outlet selected. The order may be transmitted platform-independently here, for example by means of fax or e-mail, in particular also script-controlled.
- 25 In one embodiment of the invention, the ordering system also transmits data to the selected food outlet to identify a delivery address to which the food ordered is to be delivered.
- 30 In a further embodiment of the invention, the ordering system also displays various categories of food from which the user can select a category by a corresponding input, whereupon the system displays on the basis of
- 35 the stored data on the food outlets the food outlets coming into consideration that offer the selected category of food.

In an additional embodiment of the invention, the online ordering system displays to the user price categories, from which said user can select a category by a user input, whereupon the system displays on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets the food outlets which fall into the price category selected.

An order placed by means of a class of ordering system according to the invention given by way of example may proceed as follows:

- Selection by the user of the start page by means of the domain name (for example `http:\\www.domain-name.de`).
- Selection by the user of the "ordering" item.
- Input by the user of the postal code.
- Selection by the user of the category of food, which is generated on the basis of the entered postal code and the current time of day.
- Display by the ordering system of all food outlets coming into consideration that satisfy the previously input criteria, the following being examples of the criteria:
 - delivery to the selected postal code district
 - category of food
 - food outlets still delivering at the current time of day
 - minimum amount of order in DM/EURO
- Selection by the user of the food outlet
- Display by the system of the individual food menu and information on the food outlets
- Selection by the user of the items of food and drinks to be ordered
- In the case of joint orders, a name can be assigned to each item of food or each drink by user input.
- These names serve for an overview of the order and can be printed out by the user on request (later) by transmission of the data from the online ordering system to the user.

- Display by the ordering system of the entire order before confirmation by the user.
- The system provides the user with possibilities allowing the user to alter the order
- 5 - Sending of the order by the user to the system, by e-mail, script-controlled platform-independently or directly by interaction of the user
- Passing on of the order to the respective food outlet by the online ordering system.

10

In one embodiment of the invention, the passing on of the order comprises an e-mail by the online ordering system to the respective food outlet.

- 15 In another embodiment, the system or a connected system or a connected fax server generates from the e-mail of the user's order a fax which is transmitted directly by the system to the respective food outlet.

- 20 It may also be provided that the user is sent corresponding information on the success/failure of the transmission of the order to the respective food outlet by the ordering system according to the invention, for example by e-mail, fax or an electronic voice by
- 25 telephone.

- If there are problems in the transmission of the order to the food outlet, in a special embodiment the online ordering system makes further attempts to fax the food
- 30 outlet. After that, the system will, for example, send a message by electronic voice by telephone, e-mail or over another fax machine to the food outlet, with the suggestion to check the fax machine sent to first. After the unsuccessful attempt at transmission, the
- 35 orderer is notified of this by the online ordering system, as specified above, for example by e-mail, fax and/or an electronic voice by telephone.

In one embodiment, the online ordering system is set up in such a way that, after the input of personal data, such as for example the orderer's address, delivery address, telephone or fax number, the user is allocated
5 an identification number and a PIN number by the online ordering system according to the invention. This speeds up the ordering procedure during subsequent uses of the online ordering system by the specific user, since only two data inputs have to be entered by the
10 user to the system according to the invention for the unequivocal identification of the user. Should the delivery address change, for example, this can be altered temporarily/permanently each time an order is placed.

15 In an advantageous embodiment, before confirmation of the order, the user is shown a disclaimer of liability, in which it is pointed out that the operators are acting as intermediaries and cannot be made liable for
20 losses or delays in delivery.

In a particularly advantageous embodiment of the online ordering system, the latter is set up in such a way that the payment for the items of food and/or drinks
25 ordered can take place by the user directly by interaction with the system, for example by electronic cash or by means of a credit card. The user is in this case asked by the system according to the invention to enter the corresponding data in fields provided, which
30 are assigned to the user profile in order to prevent multiple inputs as far as possible.

Figure 1 shows an embodiment of the online ordering system according to the invention given by way of
35 example. In this case, the system comprises a server 1, which can be dialled up on the WWW (Worldwide Web) of the Internet via a fixed domain address 3 or via various target-group-specific domain addresses from a multiplicity of user terminals or user computer systems

2, 2', 2''. The data mentioned above on the food outlets are stored on this domain computer system. Furthermore, an interactive program which has access to the data stored in a database via a software interface runs on the server. Users of the terminals or user computer systems 2, 2', 2'' can exchange information with the online ordering system. The online ordering system in this case operates as described above in response to the user inputs.

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An alternative embodiment of the invention comprises a database which is independent of the domain computer system and is connected to the domain computer, for example via a network.

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Figure 2 shows a start page 6, given by way of example, as generated by the user system and presented to the user. In the present case, the user has dialled up the WWW domain address "kohldampf.de". The start page has two advertising areas 7, 7', the design and content of which vary over time and may depend in particular on the geographical location of the user and/or the time of access, such as the time of day and/or day of the week, since, in certain embodiments of the invention, the system according to the invention designs the advertising areas user-dependently and/or time-dependently.

25

Furthermore, the system provides, for example, interactive fields for criticism or a help function.

30

The number 8 denotes the ordering field, in which the actual, menu-controlled ordering takes place, either prompted or unprompted. With the input of a postal code, the user can make the online ordering system carry out a first filtering of the food outlets.

35

The system activities are continuously logged. The data occurring are evaluated internally under data

protection guidelines. They serve for controlling the advertising directed at the respective target groups on the system.

5 In the embodiment represented in figure 1, the ordering system is also connected via a telecommunication connection 4, which can be established at least temporarily, to fax machines 5, 5', 5'' etc. at the food outlets, via which the orders can be transmitted
10 by the system to the food outlets. However, the connection 4 also represents part of the Internet in the case in which the orders are transmitted by the ordering system to the respective food outlet by e-mails.

15 In an advantageous development, after sending the order, a fax is generated from the e-mail and is faxed to the food outlet. If transmission is successful, the orderer is informed of the status. Should problems
20 arise during the transmission, two further attempts are made to fax the food outlets. After that, they are called up by an electronic voice and notified that their fax machine is not working properly. After the third unsuccessful attempt, the orderer is notified
25 that two further attempts are being made to transmit the order. Should the fax machine of the food outlet still not successfully receive the order twice after the telephone call, the orderer is informed of the failure and requested to contact the food outlet
30 directly.

In a special embodiment of the invention, after receiving the order, the user can transmit an assessment of the items of food and/or drinks received
35 to the computer system, which is stored there and, if appropriate, made available to other users in a database by being called up.

In an embodiment of the invention not represented, a further computer system, for example a fax server which is connected to the domain computer via an e-mail or Internet connection, undertakes the generation of the
5 fax orders to the respective food outlets.

Patent claims:

1. An online ordering system for food outlets,
comprising
 - 5 - at least a first computer system which is accessible
via the Internet under at least one domain, in which
data on food outlets are stored and on which a
program runs,
 - in each case a communication connection which can be
10 established at least temporarily between the computer
system and at least a large number of all the food
outlets covered and which in each case
 - connects an output device and/or display device at
the food outlets to the first computer system.
- 15 2. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the output device and/or display
device comprises a fax machine.
- 20 3. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1
or 2, characterized in that an interactive program runs
on the first computer system.
- 25 4. The online ordering system as claimed in one of
the preceding claims, characterized in that it
comprises at least a second computer system, which is
connected to the Internet and can communicate with the
first computer system.
- 30 5. The online ordering system as claimed in one of
the preceding claims, characterized in that the second
computer system comprises a fax server.
- 35 6. The online ordering system as claimed in one of
the preceding claims, characterized in that the program
comprises at least one prompted user program and one
unprompted user program.

7. A method of operating an online ordering system, in particular of operating the online ordering system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, comprising the following steps

- 5 - display of the start page
- preferably user input of a geographical specification
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified
- 10 geographical area,
- user input in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of
- 15 the items of food offered by the food outlet selected
- user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected
- response of the system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet
- 20 selected.

8. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the transmission of the order takes place on a fax machine

25 at the selected food outlet.

9. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps

- 30 - displaying various categories of food
- user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of
- 35 the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

10. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims,

characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- transmitting a message to the orderer on the success/failure of passing on the order to the food outlet.

11. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps

- display of price categories of the food outlets
- user input of a specific category of the price categories displayed, and
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which fall into the price categories selected.

12. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- user input of a delivery time and storage of the same by the system.

13. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- user input of a delivery address and storage of the same by the system.

14. Use of the device as claimed in claims 1 to 6 for carrying out the method as claimed in one of claims 7 to 13.

Abstract

The invention relates to an online ordering system for food outlets in any desired geographical area, and comprises at least one computer system which is accessible via the Internet under one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which an interactive program runs, in each case comprises a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and all the food outlets covered, and in each case connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the computer system.

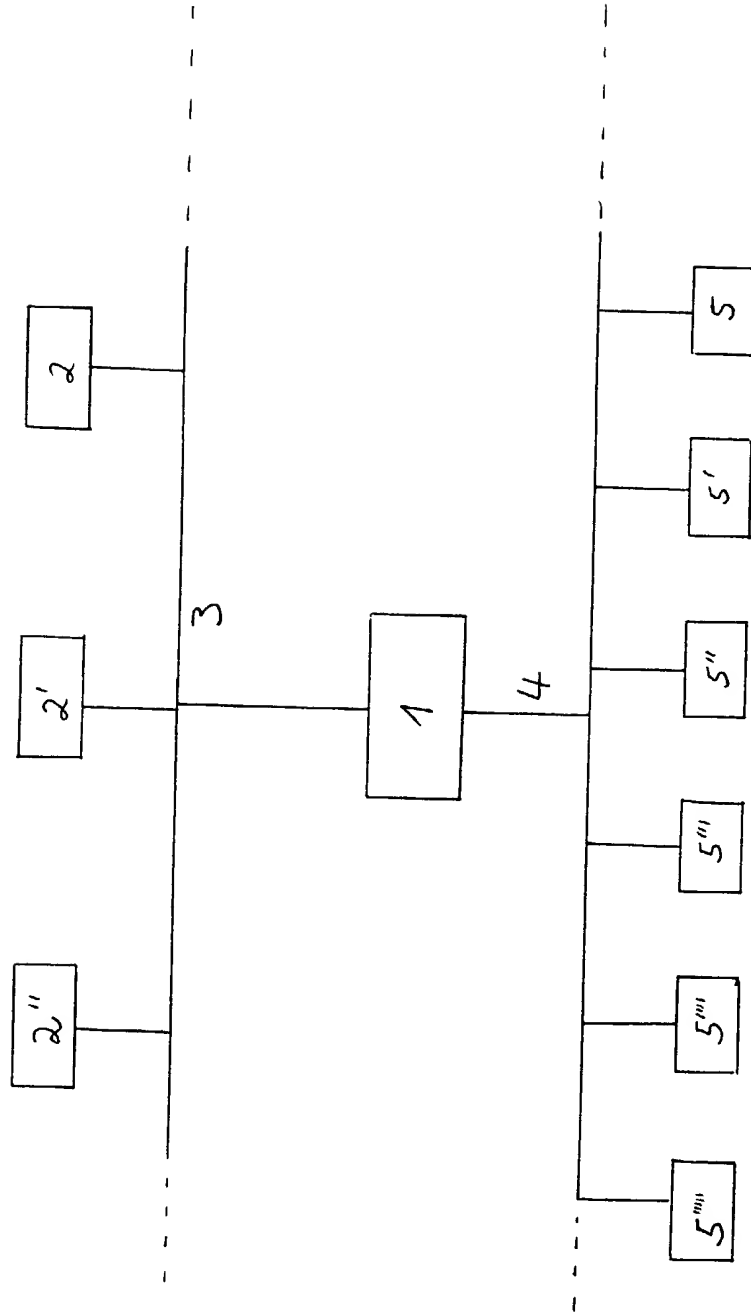
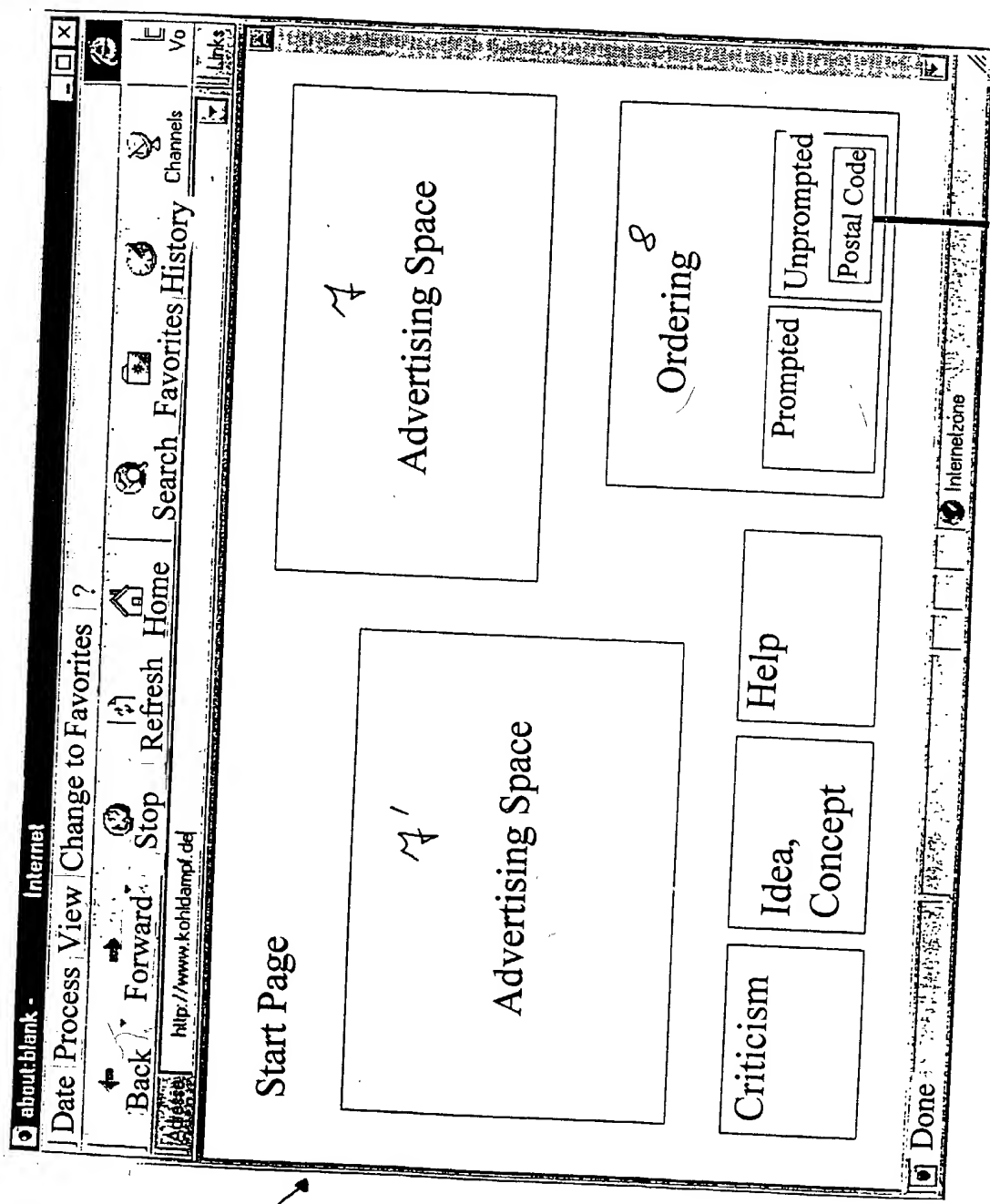


Fig. 1



6

Fig. 2

Docket No.
(H) 011CP0235USP

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled
Online ordering system, in particular for food outlets, and method of operating an online ordering system of this type

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 12/13/99 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/DE99/04129
and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

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I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

<u>198 60 908.6</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>31/12/98</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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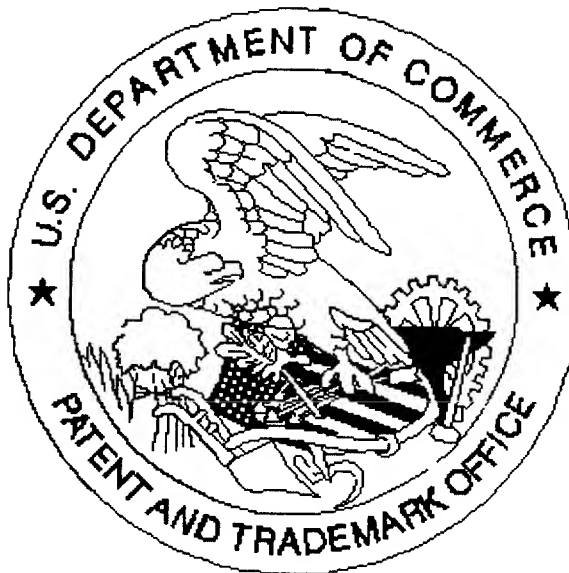
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		(patented, pending, abandoned)

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